

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

10 7. (Previously presented) A pedestal which comprises

(1) a pedestal base having an upper surface which defines at least two pairs of open channels, each pair of open channels being sized and spaced so that a straight support member of constant cross section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, with a midsection of the support member lying between the
15 open channels and having an open space underneath it, and the pairs of channels being placed on the upper surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, the support members are parallel to each other; and

(2) at least two support members, each support member being fitted into
20 one of the pairs of channels in the upper surface of the pedestal base, and the support members having top surfaces which lie in a single horizontal plane which is higher than the upper surface of the pedestal base.

the pedestal base comprising two spaced-apart wall members which are connected to each other only by the support members, each wall member having one of the
25 open channels of each pair of channels.

8-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended). A pedestal according to claim 7 wherein the
30 pedestal base comprises at least 3 ~~at least 4~~ pairs of channels, the number of the support members is equal to the number of pairs of channels; each of the support

members is a straight support member slidably fitted into one of the pairs of channels; and all the support members have the same cross section.

22. (Currently amended) A pedestal according to claim 21 wherein each of
5 the support members has have a square cross-section

23. (Currently amended) A pedestal according to claim 21 wherein each of
the support members has have a round cross-section.

10 24. (Currently amended) A pedestal according to claim 7 which comprises
an upper member having a lower peripheral surface including at least two pairs of
the open channels which are sized and spaced so that the upper member is slidably
fitted on top of the support members.

15 25. (Previously presented) A pedestal according to claim 7 wherein
(a) each of the support members has a height h ,
(b) the pedestal base has upper surfaces which lie in a horizontal plane,
and
(c) the distance between (i) the horizontal plane in which the upper
20 surfaces of the pedestal base lie and (ii) the horizontal plane in which the top
surfaces of the support member lie, is from $0.3h$ to $0.7h$.

26. (Canceled)

25 27. (New) A pedestal according to claim 7 wherein all the support members are
straight and the distance between adjacent support members is 0.25 to 2.5 inch,

28. (New) A pedestal which comprises
(1) a pedestal base having an upper surface which lies in a horizontal plane
30 and which defines at least four pairs of open channels,

each pair of open channels being sized and spaced so that a straight support member of constant cross section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, with a midsection of the support member lying between the open channels and having an open space underneath it, and

5 the pairs of channels being placed on the upper surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, the support members are parallel to each other and equally spaced from each other; and

(2) A straight support member slidably fitted into each of the pairs of channels in the upper surface of the pedestal base,

10 each of the support members having a height, h , and a constant cross-section having three or more equal sides,

the support members being substantially identical to each other, the distance between adjacent support members being not more than 2.0 inch,

15 the support members having top surfaces which lie in a single horizontal plane which is higher than the upper surface of the pedestal base, and the distance between (i) the horizontal plane in which the upper surfaces of the pedestal base lie and (ii) the horizontal plane in which the top surfaces of the support member lie, being from $0.3h$ to $0.7h$;

20 the pedestal base comprising two spaced-apart wall members which are connected to each other only by the support members, each wall member having one of the open channels of each pair of channels.

25 29. (New) A pedestal according to claim 28 wherein the wall members are substantially identical to each other.

30. (New) A pedestal according to claim 29 wherein each wall member is a substantially rectangular parallelepiped having a top surface comprising one channel of each pair of channels.

31. (New) A pedestal according to claim 28 wherein the upper surface of the pedestal base defines 4 to 8 pairs of open channels.

32. (New) A pedestal according to claim 28 wherein each of the support
5 members has a cross-section which is a square with a side having a length of 0.5 to 1.5 inch.

33. (New) A pedestal according to claim 28 wherein the distance between adjacent support members is 0.25 to 2.5 inch,

10 33. (New) A pedestal according to claim 28 which comprises an upper member having a lower peripheral surface including at least two pairs of open channels which are sized and spaced so that the upper member is slidably fitted on top of the support members.

15 34. (New) A pedestal which comprises
(1) a pedestal base having an upper surface which lies in a horizontal plane and which defines 3 to 8 pairs of open channels,
each pair of open channels being sized and spaced so that a straight support
20 member of constant cross section can be slidably fitted into the pair of channels, with a midsection of the support member lying between the open channels and having an open space underneath it, and
the pairs of channels being placed on the upper surface so that, when a straight support member is fitted into each pair of channels, the support members are
25 parallel to each other and equally spaced from each other; and
(2) a straight support member slidably fitted into each of the pairs of channels in the upper surface of the pedestal base,
each of the support members having a constant cross-section which is a square with a side having a length, s , of 0.5 to 1.5 inch,
30 the support members being substantially identical to each other,
the distance between adjacent support members being 0.25 to 2.5 inch,

the support members having top surfaces which lie in a single horizontal plane which is higher than the upper surface of the pedestal base, and the distance between (i) the horizontal plane in which the upper surfaces of the pedestal base lie and (ii) the horizontal plane in which the top surfaces of the support member lie, being from 0.3s to 0.7s;

the pedestal base comprising two spaced-apart wall members which are connected to each other only by the support members, the wall members being substantially identical to each other, and each wall member being a substantially rectangular parallelepiped and having a top surface comprising one of the open channels of each pair of channels of each pair of channels.

35. (New) A pedestal according to claim 34 which comprises an upper member having a lower peripheral surface including at least two pairs of open channels which are sized and spaced so that the upper member is slidably fitted on top of the support members.